

## Demonstration Page

### *The Second Anza Expedition to Alta California*

*My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am going on a long trek to Alta California from my home in \_\_\_\_\_, New Spain. I will be keeping this Journal as I travel.*

*First I will tell you a little about myself.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Day 1 Summary

Having recruited nearly 200 people to settle San Francisco and almost 100 soldiers, cowboys, and escorts to help bring them north, Anza stopped his expedition in Horcasitas in present day Sonora to prepare for their journey across the Sonoran and Arizona deserts. Although Anza had gathered hundreds of horses and mules to aid the travelers on their trip, the night before their planned departure, Apache Indians arrived and took the majority of the animals. Anza and his soldiers tried to find as many replacements as possible, but there simply were not enough horses in the Sonoran frontier to make up for the loss. In the end, the expedition left with less horse than they needed. Many settlers would end up walking large portions of the route when animals were weak or died.

The trail from Horcasitas to the presidio at Tubac was well established. Yaqui and Tohono O'odham Indians had traveled over these river valleys for centuries. Spanish settlers had lived in this region for many generations and had established a network of small communities. Anza was the commander of the presidio of Tubac. He had spent most of his life living in the region and knew the people there. Saying goodbye to his wife and friends would have been very difficult.

The expedition traveled north from Tubac along the Santa Cruz River. The river corridor was flat and provided a water source for the nearly 1000 animals traveling on the expedition. Anza knew the countryside as well as the culture of the Native Americans that lived there. He had worked with soldiers from the Indian community and had learned to speak some of the languages.

On their first night out from Tubac, the expedition experienced their one and only death. Manuela Piñuelas died while giving birth to a son. After she was buried at the Mission San Xavier del Bac, the sadness of the day was broken by the joy of three separate weddings for couples leaving on the expedition. They left the mission with mixed emotions about the trials that awaited them along the trail.

The farther north the expedition traveled, the less Spaniards they saw. The small foundation of the recently established presidio in Tucson would be their last Spanish contact until they reached the recently created San Gabriel Mission, almost 500 miles and two immense deserts away. As the water in the Santa Cruz River began to disappear, Anza's big concern was where he would find his next water supply. Anza sent scouts down the trail to see if water was available. They returned with good news: recent rains had left some pools of water between Tucson and the Gila River – a three day trip for the expedition. The expedition said good-bye to the last Spanish outpost and embarked on their epic journey.

## Lesson Plan: Day 2 Gila River to the Colorado River

### I. Concepts:

Maps help us to learn about geography (a science which encompasses a great variety of topics). Anza's trail leads through two large deserts, which impacted their travels. Students will see and receive a map of the Anza Trail for the first time and trace out the route to the Gila River. They will learn about some of the desert plants and animals in the areas that they are crossing through. Finally, they will write in their journals what desert animals and plants are their favorites.

### II. Preparation:

- Display a large map on the wall that can be drawn on. An overhead map may be made from the transparency included
- Gather information of desert environment, animals and native cultures of the area. See "Extras "
- Approximate time for lesson: 45 minutes (can be extended)

### III. Classroom Activities:

- Teacher uses large wall map to point out the location of the trail that Anza had discovered on his first trip
- Teacher discusses where the trip will take them, following the route of the second expedition
- Teacher and class read the Day 2 Summary
- During the discussion the teacher will share information on the geography and native people of the area (Sonoran and Colorado Deserts)
- Students will become aware of the native flora and fauna of the desert area
- Students refer to the map on page 3 in journal, locate hometown listed on their identity card and trace the route on their map

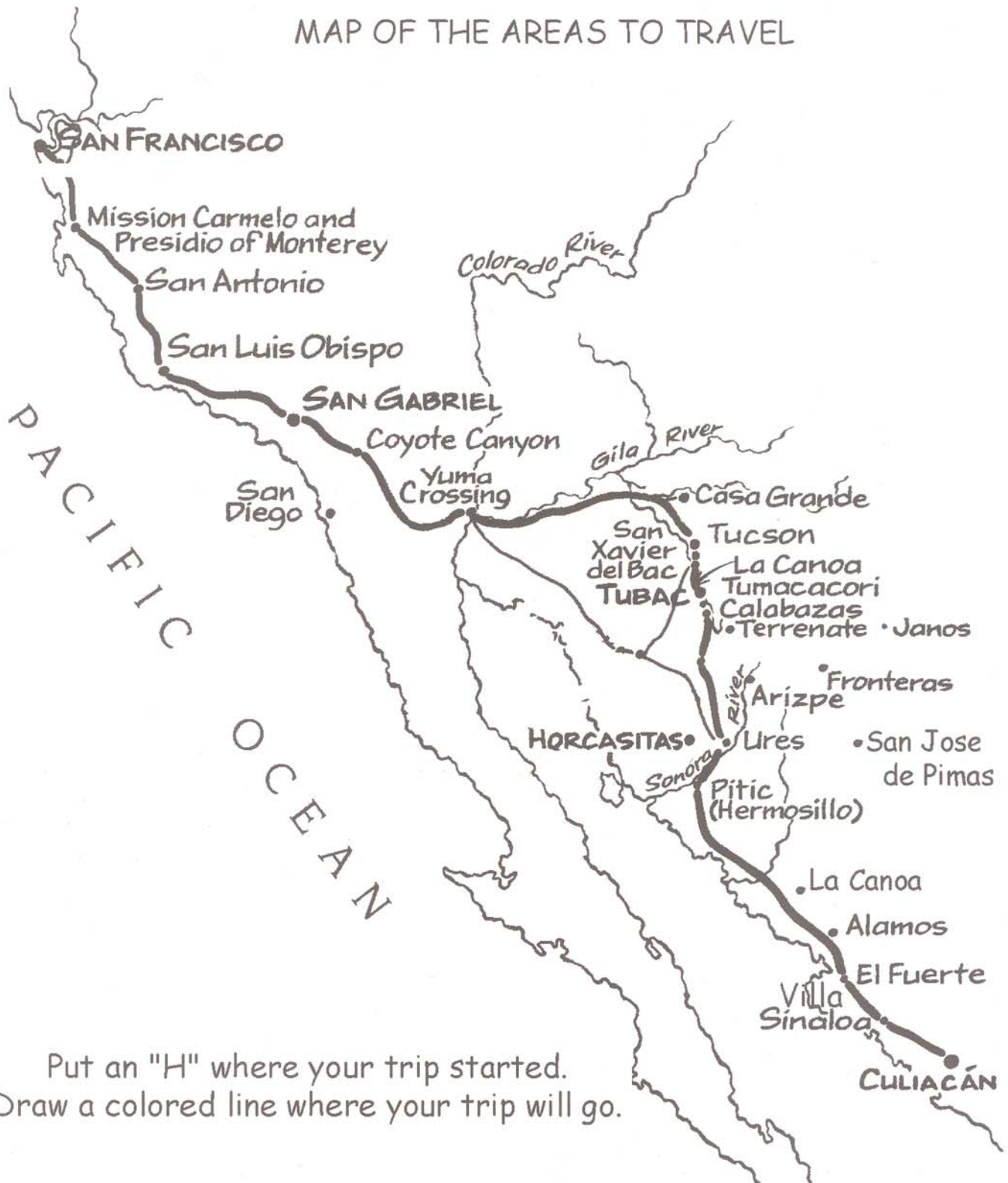
### Notes:

The trip should start in Horcasitas (see *Day 1 Summary* and on Day Five "Synopsis of Anza 's Trek "). During the discussion you may wish to draw on the wall map the progress of the trip and during this time pin large pictures on the map of plants, animals and native tribes seen in these areas. On this day you should only go as far as the Colorado River if you plan to go back to the map after the trek on Day Five. If you go as far as San Gabriel Mission you can finish the map on the last day and tie in a later study of missions and presidios.

Students could brainstorm before being informed about what they would expect to see.

If unable to gather additional research materials on desert life, you may wish to eliminate the student journal page "My favorite desert plant, my favorite desert animal."

## MAP OF THE AREAS TO TRAVEL



## **ANIMALS & PLANTS OF THE SONORAN & COLORADO DESERTS**

Anza's trail leads through two of the North American deserts. The area that these pioneers came from is the Sonoran Desert. This area encompasses most of Baja California, the northwest area of Mexico and the southwest area of Arizona. The Sonoran Desert has more types of plants than any other North American desert partly because it has two rainy seasons. Winter rain comes from the Pacific Ocean and summer rain from the Gulf of Mexico. It is also one of the hottest with summer temperatures reaching over 120 degrees and winter rarely below freezing.

Our pioneers came from the inland areas of the Mexican Sonora Desert, so they would not have experienced the animals that might have been seen near the Pacific Ocean or the Gulf of California. Some plants they might have seen:

**SAGUARO CACTUS  
PRICKLY-PEAR CACTUS  
YUCCA  
MEXICAN POPPY  
TEDDY-BEAR CHOLLA**

**ORGAN PIPE CACTUS  
CREOSOTE  
CHAIN-FRUIT CHOLLA  
OWL 'S-CLOVER  
OCOTILLO**

**CARDOON CACTUS  
BRITTLEBUSH  
PALO VERDE  
CARDON  
COTTONWOOD**

Some animals they might have seen:

**TURKEY VULTURE  
GAMBEL'S QUAIL  
KINGSNAKE  
WESTERN WHIPTAIL  
COLLARED LIZARD  
BARK SCORPION  
COTTONTAIL RABBIT  
BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT**

**HARRIS' HAWK  
ROADRUNNER  
RATTLESNAKE  
RINGTAIL CAT  
VELVET ANT  
WOODRAT  
JAVELINA**

**CACTUS WREN  
BAT  
TARANTULA  
MULE DEER  
STINK BEETLE  
COATI  
COUGAR  
SIDE-BLOTCHED LIZARD**

Once the group crossed the Colorado River they would have entered a slightly different environment. The name Colorado Desert is given to the land west of the river, north to about the bottom of Nevada, and about halfway down the southeastern coast of Baja California. Many of the same animals and plants are found in the Colorado Desert but there are some special plants and animals to add to the list. The terrain varies from vast sand dunes (Algodones Dunes) to rocky mountains. The winter rains give areas of colorful fields of wildflowers in the spring.

Some new plants to see:

**FISHHOOK CACTUS  
PENCIL CHOLLA  
IRONWOOD  
MORMON TEA  
BEAVERTAIL CACTUS  
LUPINE**

**BARREL CACTUS  
CHUPAROSA  
FAN PALM  
SAND VERBENA  
DESERT DANDELION  
SILVER CHOLLA**

**HEDGEHOG CACTUS  
SMOKE TREE  
AGAVE  
EVENING PRIMROSE  
INDIGO BUSH**

Some new animals to see:

**RED-TAILED HAWK  
PAINTED LADY  
BLISTER BEETLE  
COYOTE  
WHITE-LINED SPHINX MOTH**

**COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD  
SPINY LIZARD  
POCKET MOUSE  
BIGHORN SHEEP**

**CHUCKWALLA  
SIDEWINDER  
KANGAROO RAT  
ANTELOPE SQUIRREL**

## Possible Lesson Extension (see journal pages)

*My favorite desert plant is* \_\_\_\_\_

*because*

---

---

---

*My favorite desert animal is*

---

*because*

---

---

---

---

## Day 2 Summary

The Gila River stretched out like a broad ribbon to the west. The Anza expedition used it as a guide, knowing that it would lead them across the desert to Chief Palma and the Yuma People at the Colorado River. Although there was enough water, the animals were always in search of more grass. The Sonoran Desert offered very little grass for the horses and cows. As the weather began to turn cold, the lack of trees made the search for firewood difficult.

As the group followed the Gila River, they encountered many different Native American communities. At each community, Anza would distribute small gifts to the Indians, such as ribbon and beads. The beads were often made into jewelry. Father Font estimated that 3,000 Native Americans were living along the Gila River. As they neared Gila Bend, Anza and Font traveled to view the ruins at Casa Grande and to marvel at the ancient cultures that had built them.

The expedition was forced to stop for a number of days as another woman gave birth. As she slowly gathered strength, many other people including Font and some of the soldiers became sick as they headed west. The delays were definitely a concern for Anza. With a limited number of animals, he had only brought enough food and supplies for four months. Each delay depleted more and more of their food. They would have to take advantage of any food they could find along the way. Hunting for animals and trading with the tribes along the trail would help out. As they were resting along the Gila River, some of Anza's soldiers took advantage of the break to look for additional supplies. Along the Gila, they discovered large fields of salt and collected as much as they could carry both for seasoning and to cure meat.

As the expedition got closer to the Colorado River, Chief Palm of the Yuma Indians sent scouts out to help guide Anza and the expedition in. Anza had met with Palma in 1774 when he had brought a small group of soldiers along the trail. Anza had brought a number of gifts for Palma, including an ornate uniform fitting for a king of the Yuma people. While there, Anza promised that on his return, he would bring Palma south to Mexico to meet the viceroy.

The expedition rested along the Colorado River and enjoyed the hospitality of the Yuman speaking people. The Yuma Indians shared their supply of melons as beans with the Spanish settlers. While they waited, they helped construct a small shelter for the two priests that would stay behind and help serve as missionaries to serve the Yuma community.

When the day finally came to leave, Palma sent some of his strongest swimmers into the river to help catch any of the settlers who fell off of their horses. Many of the settlers could not swim and the Colorado River was running wide, deep, and cold. In the end, everyone made it across the river. Their next big challenge would be to cross the California desert.